

Description of five new asiatic species of the Coleopterous genus *Helota*

by

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***Helota Lewisi* n. sp. ♀.**

Closely allied to and very much resembling *Helota attenuata* RITS.¹⁾ from Kurseong and British Bhotan, but smaller, the sides of the prothorax more strongly curved, which makes the thorax broader in the anterior half, the punctures in the striae on the elytra larger and, consequently, the interspaces narrower, the convex yellow spots on the elytra smaller and the elytral epipleurae brassy, not reddish testaceous.

Length 8 mm. — Subshining; above dark bronze; the basal 3 joints of the antennae testaceous, stained with fuscous at the top, the following joints pitchy brown, the club darkest; the anterior angles of the pronotum fulvous; the scutellum bright green; the elytra provided with two pairs of convex yellow spots situated between the 3rd and 6th striae and surrounded with purplish; these spots are smaller than in *attenuata*. The colour of the underside is reddish testaceous, with the exception of the head (without the throat) and the elytral epipleurae which are brassy; the femora are reddish testaceous with the tip metallic green; the tibiae dark pitchy, indistinctly stained with rufous about the middle, the tarsi dark pitchy.

Head strongly but rather remotely punctured in the raised middle portion, somewhat finer and more closely between

¹⁾ Notes Leyd. Mus. Vol. XVI (1895), p. 112.

the raised portion and the eyes, very minutely on the narrowed front portion.

Prothorax strongly transverse, the sides more convex than in the allied species which makes it broader in its anterior half, the front angles slightly prominent, subangular, the sides minutely crenulate, the base deeply bisinuate, the lateral angles acute, the median lobe subtruncate; the upper surface strongly but rather irregularly punctured, the punctures along the middle considerably finer than on the sides and wider apart, impunctate in front of the scutellum, and at the base, midway between the median lobe and the lateral margins, with a small impunctate slightly raised spot. The scutellum is strongly transverse, glossy and impunctate.

Elytra narrowing in straight lines towards the end, the apices rounded, slightly dehiscent at the suture. Each elytron with ten regular striae of punctures which become considerably larger towards the sides, making the interspaces narrower than in the allied species.

The underside of the head rather sparingly punctured, the middle of the throat impunctate. The lateral portions of the prosternum are rather densely covered with large punctures, the punctures on the middle are minute and wider apart. The abdomen is apparently impunctate along the middle, along the sides and on the apical segment very minute punctures are distinctly visible; the apical segment is rounded at the tip. The tip of the femora and the tibiae are very distinctly punctured; the anterior tibiae are faintly curved.

Hab. China: Yunnan. — The described female specimen is in the collection of the Leyden Museum. The species is dedicated to Mr. GEORGE LEWIS.

***Helota Hopei* n. sp. ♂.**

Very closely allied to and much resembling *Helota Fryi* RITS.¹⁾ from Burma, but shorter and slightly broader, with the yellow elytral spots placed between the 4th and 7th and between the 3rd and 6th striae, the apices of the elytra more narrowly rounded and their posterior margin very minutely

¹⁾ Notes Leyd. Mus. Vol. XVI (1895), p. 101.

serrulate, the apical ventral segment broadly truncate in a nearly straight line which is preceded by a short, finely punctate flattened space.

Length 8.5 mm. — Elongate, shining, above with coppery tinges; the antennae pale testaceous, the terminal joint of the club slightly infusate; each elytron provided with two flavous spots which are narrowly surrounded with purplish; the anterior spot is situated between the 4th and 7th striae, the posterior spot between the 3rd and 6th striae. Underneath: the head (except the middle of the throat), the lateral portions of the prosternum and the elytral epipleurae are golden green, the rest is reddish testaceous; the legs are reddish testaceous with the apex of the femora and the basal half of the tibiae metallic green; the extreme apex of the tibiae and the tarsi are pitchy, the base of the claw-joint is rufous.

Head strongly and densely punctured; on the narrowed front portion the punctures are much finer.

Prothorax broader at the base than long, slightly narrowing towards the front margin in faintly curved lines, the sides distinctly crenulate, the front margin straight, the front angles not at all prominent, subangular; the base bisinuate, the basal angles acute, the median lobe rounded. The pronotum strongly and densely punctured, the punctures larger and more widely separated on the basal half; three smooth spaces at the base: one in the middle and two oblique ones between the middle and the sides. The scutellum is semi-ovate, transverse and impunctate.

Elytra elongate, parallel-sided, separately rounded at the end, the extreme apical margin very minutely serrulate. Each elytron with ten regular striae of punctures which become larger towards the sides; those interstices which join the apical margin are costate at the end.

Under surface of the head (except the throat) provided with large punctures, the metallic coloured lateral portions of the prosternum likewise strongly punctured, the middle portion much more finely; the elytral epipleurae and legs apparently impunctate, the abdomen minutely and distantly punctured with the exception of the flattened streak in front

of the broadly truncate apex where the punctures are closer together.

Anterior tibiae faintly curved, the inner margin suddenly deeply notched a little beyond the middle, the notch rounded at the bottom; between the notch and the apex the tibia is widened so as to form a rounded lobe of which the margin is fringed; the basal joints of the anterior tarsi are slightly widened, and fringed beneath with long colourless hairs; the inner margin of the intermediate and posterior tibiae bears a very minute angular black tooth at a small distance from the apex, and the space between this tooth and the apex is finely pubescent.

Hab. British Bhotan: Padong (Rev. Fath. L. DUREL). — A single male specimen which is in the collection of Mr. RENÉ OBERTHÜR at Rennes.

***Helota Boulei* n. sp. ♂.**

A small species which, according to my „Synopsis” ¹⁾, is allied to *Helota pusilla* OBERTH. ²⁾ from Darjeeling. The new species may be recognized from the allied species (see the following descriptions) by the pale colour of the club of the antennae, by the slender, shallowly notched anterior tibiae and by the untoothed hindtibiae.

Length 6.5—7 mm. — Elongate, shining, above bronze green with coppery tinges; the antennae pale testaceous, with the apical margin of the joints of the club only infusate; each elytron provided with two flavous spots which are narrowly surrounded with purplish; the anterior spot is situated between the 4th and 7th, the posterior one between the 3rd and 7th striae. Underneath: the head (except the middle of the throat), the lateral portions of the prosternum and the elytral epipleurae are golden green, the rest is reddish testaceous; the legs are reddish testaceous, with the apex of the femora and the basal third of the tibiae metallic green, the tarsi pitchy, the base of the claw-joint rufous.

Head densely covered with punctures which are somewhat

¹⁾ Notes Leyd. Mus. Vol. XIII (1891), p. 223.

²⁾ OBERTHÜR, Coleopt. Novit. I (1883), p. 60.

wider apart on the middle between the eyes; on the narrowed front portion they are fine and close together.

Prothorax subquadrate, the front margin straight, the front angles rounded, not at all prominent; the base bisinuate, the lateral angles acute, the median lobe rounded. The pronotum rather regularly densely covered with punctures which are distinctly larger than those on the middle of the head. The scutellum is transverse, broadly rounded posteriorly and impunctate.

Elytra elongate, subparallel, each of them broadly rounded at the end, somewhat looking as being obliquely subtruncate towards the suture. Each elytron with ten regularly punctured striae, the punctures becoming larger towards the sides; those interstices which join the apical margin are costate at the end.

Under surface of the head (except the throat) provided with large punctures, the metallic coloured lateral portions of the prosternum still more strongly punctured, the middle portion much more finely; the elytral epipleurae and legs apparently impunctate, the abdomen very minutely punctured, the apical ventral segment truncate posteriorly.

Anterior tibiae slender, distinctly curved, shallowly notched about the middle on the inside, and on the underside with a thinly fringed black line extending from the notch to the apex of the tibia; the basal joints of the anterior tarsi are slightly widened and fringed beneath with long colourless hairs; the intermediate and posterior tibiae are straight, their inner margin untoothed.

Hab. British Bhotan: Padong (Rev. Fath. L. DUREL). — Three male specimens from Mr. RENÉ OBERTHÜR's collection, one of which is now in the Leyden Museum. This species is dedicated to Mr. PROSPER BOULÉ, the zealous preparator of Mr. RENÉ OBERTHÜR.

***Helota consanguinea* n. sp. ♂.**

Resembling *Helota Boulei* and of the same size, but at once recognizable by the presence of a pubescent impression on the apical ventral segment, by the darker coloured terminal joints of the club of the antennae, by the less slender ante-

rior tibiae which are moreover more deeply notched, and by the minute teeth on the apical third of the inner margin of the posterior tibiae.

The portion of the anterior tibiae situated between the notch and the end of the tibia is broader and the black line along this portion is more densely fringed. The intermediate tibiae are armed at the end of the inner margin with a black tooth, and on the apical third of the posterior tibiae a few very minute black denticles are present on the inner margin.

The apical ventral segment is broadly truncate posteriorly, the truncation preceded by a pubescent, semicircular impression which is as broad as the truncation; along the curved side of the impression numerous closely set minute punctures are to be seen.

In most of the specimens the flavous elytral spots are situated between the 4th and 7th and between the 3rd and 7th striae, but in other ones both spots are between the 3rd and 7th striae, whereas also a few intermediate stages are before me.

It is not improbable that later on will be stated that this insect is the male sex of *Helota pusilla* OBERTH., a species of which the female sex only is described.

Hab. British Bhotan: Padong (Rev. Fath. L. DUREL). — Specimens of this species are in the collection of Mr. R. OBERTHÜR and in that of the Leyden Museum.

***Helota Sharpi* n. sp. ♂.**

Very much resembling the two preceding species and of the same size.

From *Boulci* it differs by the darker coloured terminal joints of the club of the antennae, by the otherwise shaped anterior tibiae (they are less slender and more deeply and more narrowly notched on the middle of the inner margin, and the margin of the widened portion between the notch and the end of the tibia is straight and black), and by the minutely toothed apical third of the inner margin of the posterior tibiae; these denticles are black and stand upon a dark coloured line.

From *consanguinea* it differs very conspicuously by the

absence of the pubescent impression on the last ventral segment.

The tibiae of *Sharpi* resemble those of *consanguinea*. The flavous elytral spots are situated between the 4th and 7th and between the 3rd and 7th striae. The last ventral segment is subtruncate posteriorly.

Hab. British Bhotan: Padong (Rev. Fath. L. DUREL). — Specimens are in the collection of Mr. R. OBERTHÜR and in the Leyden Museum.

This species is dedicated to Dr. DAVID SHARP who studied, in collaboration with Mr. F. MUIR, the male genital tube of *Helota gemmata* GORH. (see Trans. Ent. Soc. London, 1912, p. 521, pl. 60). Dr. SHARP wrote lately to me: „*Helota* I consider to be a fine form closely allied to Nitidulidae. Whether a distinct family from Nitidulidae cannot at present be settled.”

The last three species, all closely allied to *Helola pusilla* OBERTH. and very much alike one another, may be identified in the male sex by the following key.

- A. Last ventral segment with a pubescent impression *consanguinea*.
- B. Last ventral segment without a pubescent impression.
 - a. Anterior tibiae slender, faintly notched.
The club of the antennae pale coloured.
The posterior tibiae untoothed. . . . *Boulei*.
 - b. Anterior tibiae broader, more deeply notched. The terminal joints of the club of the antennae dark coloured. The posterior tibiae with some minute black denticles on the inner margin of the apical third *Sharpi*.

Together with the above described males, Mr. OBERTHÜR received a certain number of female specimens belonging to the same group as the males, but I failed to find as yet characters by which these females may be separated specifically. It is very desirable that specimens taken in copulation were sent over.

Leyden Museum, October 1914: